

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 13, 2014
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on May 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones, and Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV)

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on April 8, 2014 and Special Meeting April 28, 2014, 2014, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mrs. Lois Edwards of the State Forestry Commission presented the City of Marion with the *Tree City Award* for the 22nd year. Ms. Edwards congratulated Marion on receiving this award and thanked Ms. Vickie Nichols for her help in providing the required information.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis presented his plan for a Community Summer Camp and Education Program which will be offered to all children in the City of Marion, headed by Mr. Mike Tiesing. Mayor Davis presented Council with an outline of the programs being offered at the camp. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to proceed with the program, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if there would be any expense to the City or taxpayers, to which Mayor Davis responded that there would be no expense to the taxpayers. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson inquired as to where the funding for the food would come from and Mayor Davis responded that we were partnering with the state that some would come from local food banks. Attorney Kenneth Davis asked if the plan was for the City to sponsor the program and use volunteers, to which Mayor Davis responded we are using volunteers and the City is the host. The motion carried **6-1**, with Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting **no**.

Mr. Fred Wilson gave a presentation on an Aviation Program in the works for the City of Marion kids. The Flying Tigers RC (Remote Control) Club will help with this event. He is currently seeking a location to hold the event and has been discussing the possibility of holding it at the Marion County airport.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow the Community Action Agency to allow the use of Pop Dorsey Park for a summer feed program, ages 6 months to 18 years, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to allow Ms. Ellen Baldwin use of Pop Dorsey Park on August 9th for the school supplies event, but due to the tightness of the budget, not to give any funds. Councilman Michael Baker seconded the motion; motion carried. Councilwoman Odessa Gregg stated that she would personally donate to the event and asked if any other Council members would give.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion not to fund the Marion County Independence Day Celebration this year, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow Marion County Emergency Management use of the Opera House on August 14th, for the National Weather Service to give a weather update on hurricane season, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept the residents' first choice of the white City flag, with the correction noted (The Swamp Fox City), seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to set June 10th at 6:15 p.m. for Public Hearing for ***ORDINANCE 14-01, AN ORDINANCE TO SET MILLAGE FOR RAISING FUNDS AND TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015*** and ***ORDINANCE 14-02, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL HOSPITALITY REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEARS***, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept 1st Reading on ***ORDINANCE 14-01 AN ORDINANCE TO SET MILLAGE FOR RAISING FUNDS AND TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015***, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. After some discussion regarding whether or not to cut a minimal amount of services, the motion carried **5-2**, with Mayor Bobby L. Davis and Council Members Michael Baker, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier voting **yes** and Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson and Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting **no**.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept 1st Reading on ***ORDINANCE 14-02, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL HOSPITALITY REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEARS***, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The vote carried 6-1, with Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting **no**.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept 1st Reading to **AMEND ORDINANCE 13-06, AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES BY RECEIVING SEALED BIDS, SUBJECT TO THE CITY'S POWER TO REJECT ALL BIDS**, changing the amount from \$70,000 to \$60,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier and carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The contractors have started work on the Tollison Center and Elementary Gym and work should be completed before the start of basketball season in October.

Mr. Ammons commented that there was a possible CDBG Neighborhood Grant; paperwork must be done by August and the City would have to have a cash match of \$50,000 (of which a small portion could be an in-kind match) Councilman Michael Baker made a motion not to proceed with this grant, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Regarding the debris removal, the contractors are done and have left the area.

The Arts Council would like to do a chalk walk for kids on the Hike-Bike Trail, June 24th from 3-8 p.m. and this will need to go on next month's agenda for Council's approval. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to allow the Arts Council to move forward with advertising this event, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried. Opening ceremony for the pool at Grice's will be May 30th at 9:30 a.m., the pool will open for the summer around June 5th. We have secured \$393,000 from the Transportation Committee for paving and sidewalk repairs as listed on our request to the CTC. Mr. Ammons will provide Council with a complete list of the CTC projects.

Mr. Kelly Calhoun in the City Maintenance Shop was named May *Employee of the Month* and presented with a gift certificate.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney Davis stated that a ruling came down from the US Supreme Court whereby the practice of prayer, such as Mrs. Gregg did at the opening of this meeting, was upheld. Also, there is a current court ruling whereby Council is limited in their ability to amend their agenda (at the meeting). The State Supreme Court is reviewing this and although it is likely to be overturned, it has not happened yet.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports were sent out in Council's packets for their review. Police Chief Gray reminded everyone that school is out and to be watchful of all our children. Mr. William Campbell (Senior Council) invited all senior citizens to attend the seniors' monthly meetings and was reminded by the Mayor that in order to speak on any other subject, he would need to be placed on the agenda next month. Mrs. Bettie Jones (Historic Commission) thanked Council for being so nice. Mrs. Mary Eaddy (Citizens Advisory) reminded everyone that the committee would not meet in June, July and August, but they are still seeking new members. Ms. Tassie

Lewis (Recreation Advisory) commented that they are trying to implement a scholarship for seniors (at MHS).

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilman Emerson Hunt had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg commented that she was happy about the paving being done near the Police Department.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time

Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked if there was a schedule for the sweeper as he did not see it very often in the south part of town. Mr. Ammons responded that he would give Mr. Frazier a copy of the schedule. Also, he is concerned about the condition of the house/yard across the street from him to which Mr. Ammons responded that a letter would be sent to him regarding the nuisance property.

Councilman Michael Baker asked if letters would be going out on overgrown property to which Mr. Ammons responded that it was time to start sending the letters and hopes that public has been educated and there will not be as many this year.

Mr. Ammons reported the following for Foxtrot: Saturday, May 17th, 10:00 a.m. parade, Carl Brunson will be the featured entertainer, Fireworks Friday night at Withlacoochee Park, carnival rides Friday night and all day Saturday at CD Joyner parking lot and an event Thursday night at the Opera House.

Mayor Davis commented on the devastating loss of our local IGA and prays that someone will rebuild there. He further commented on how appreciative he was of all the IGA has done for the City of Marion and its citizens. The employee's luncheon was held and well received. Regarding dilapidated houses, we are going to do those we can, some have already been targeted and approved to tear down. We will discuss with the attorney our next step on those houses that the owners have not responded or are County-owned, as we must follow proper procedures. Two movies are being filmed in Marion and the cast and crew are pleased with the area and beauty of our city. We plan to start showing movies for our kids and also the senior citizens at the Opera House and also some outdoor venues. Mayor Davis passed out a handout to those in attendance with info addressing some financial issues with the Marion Boys & Girls Club

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the Police Department and Municipal Court, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action had been taken.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Councilman Emerson Hunt made a motion to move forward with sending Heather Evans to school and checking into a County Magistrate Court, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to transfer \$1,000 from the Police Salaries or Health Insurance to Municipal Court Part-time Judge, seconded by Councilman Emerson Hunt; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones
Taped May 13, 2014